

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
November 22, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Father John Plavcan – St. Joan of Arc Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mrs. Uzelac was absent. All other members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

President Hardaway acknowledged and thanked the following individuals for their participation in the Veteran's Day program: Mr. Guernsey, Ms. Shine, Mrs. Gaza, Councilwoman LaMarca, and Councilman Minchuk. President Hardaway said it was a great time and thanked everyone for their support as we celebrated another Veterans Day.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated November 22, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Pettit referenced a prior Budget & Finance meeting regarding amendments related to 2016 salary ordinance as well as the 2017 salary ordinance that includes the \$2000 raise. He also mentioned that there will be a first and second reading for the amendment to the 2017 Budget ordinance that will take place later at this meeting.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Spann had no report. Mr. Spires mentioned Public Works will continue to pick up leaves around town for the next two weeks. A discussion took place regarding work being performed by Indiana American Water including issues associated with this utility company.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Bushemi provided an overview regarding the memorandum of agreement between the Town of Merrillville and Gary Public Transportation Corporation. Discussion followed. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mrs. Barron asked George Gountainis, an insurance representative of HUB International, to present the proposed Insurance Renewal information to the Town Council. Mr. Gountainis provided an overview of the detailed insurance renewal information. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the insurance renewal for 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spann. Discussion followed regarding the timeframe for scheduling meetings to discuss. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Information for the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for design, installation and operation of an Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) System was presented. Chief Yerga and Mr. Spires provided an overview of the agreement material. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

President Hardaway said as of December 2, 2016 they will be starting the interview process to obtain a new ambulance service. He asked the Town Council to review their packets and submit any questions to Mr. Spires. Mr. Spires commented on the submittals that the Town has received.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich said the Christmas Holiday Parade will be Friday, December 2, 2016 at 6 p.m. The procession will start at Merrillville Intermediate School and travel to the Pruzin Park. Festivities include a lighting ceremony, Santa, and serving of hot chocolate, cookies, and candy.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

President Hardaway had no report.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 16-29:** Be it ordained / resolved by the Town of Merrillville that for the expenses of MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN for the year ending December 31, 2017 the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN, the property tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance. This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Town of Merrillville. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Discussion followed regarding the amendment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to suspend the rule on the second reading and allow for it to take place at today's meeting. Mrs. Barron seconded the motion to suspend the rules. There was no discussion. The motion to suspend the rule for second reading was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**Ord. 16-35:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Merrillville Fire Territory Cumulative Fire Equipment Fund, of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 16-36:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Merrillville Fire Territory Operating Fire Equipment Fund, of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. Mr. Spires explained the reasoning for the need to transfer of funds.

**Ord. 16-37:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 16-07 and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2016. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 16-38:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 16-37 and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2017. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 16-29:** Be it ordained / resolved by the Town of Merrillville that for the expenses of MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN for the year ending December 31, 2017 the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN, the property tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance. This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Town of Merrillville. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 16-32:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, to amend the Fire and Hazmat fund for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 16-33:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Casino Fund for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 16-34:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Recycling Grant Fund for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 16-33:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2016 budget within the Police Department Equipment fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

**Petitioner:** Pearl Street Commercial LLC  
**Owner:** Peter Giannini  
**Request:** Variance of use approval in a C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District  
**Purpose:** A proposed climate controlled self-storage facility  
**Location:** 8290 Broadway  
**Zoning:** C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District  
**Case #:** Z42Uv22-1116  
**Conditions:** For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.

Representation for the petitioner was present to address any questions that may arise. Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. Discussion followed related to the hours of operation. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Town Hall Offices Closed (*except for Emergency Services*)  
November 24th & 25th, 2016 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Police Commission meeting, December 2, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Christmas Procession & Christmas Lighting Ceremony, December 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.  
(*Santa will be leaving MIS - 1400 W. 61st Ave. & will be traveling east on 61st Ave. to Harrison St. then North to the Pruzin Park - 5750 Tyler St.*)

Stormwater Management Board meeting, Dec. 6, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Town Council meeting, December 13, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn was seconded by Ms. LaMarca.

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Richard Hardaway, President

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Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer